

Medal; the Overseas Service Ribbon with numeral three; the Army Service Ribbon, the Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon with numeral four; the Vietnam Campaign Medal; the Kuwait Liberation Medal; the Master Parachutist Badge; the Drill Sergeant Badge; the Mechanic Badge; and the Belgian Parachutist Badge.

Mr. Speaker, Command Sergeant Major Cutbirth deserves the thanks and praise of the nation that he had faithfully served for so long. I know the Members of the House will join me in wishing him, his wife of 30 years, Catherine, and his three children, Laurie, Paul and Matthew, all the best in the years ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2000

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 114, I was unavoidably detained on official business. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF BETH EDEN BAPTIST CHURCH, OAKLAND, CA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2000

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, today, I celebrate the 110th anniversary of the establishment of the Beth Eden Baptist Church in Oakland, California. This milestone will be commemorated from April 9 through May 21, 2000.

The theme of this celebration is taken from Ephesians 6:10-18 which reads: "By example-maintaining our armor of God and hold fast to the principles of righteousness, perseverance, faithfulness, salvation and spirit, which are in the word of God."

Beth Eden is the oldest Black Baptist Church in Alameda County. Founded on April 20, 1890, its first pastor was Rev. George Gray. Since 1890, the church has flourished following its theme "A Legacy of Faith."

Since its founding with Rev. Gray, Beth Eden has had eleven additional pastors, including Rev. Robert Alexander McQuinn, Rev. James Allen (who later founded Oakland's Allen Temple Baptist Church), Rev. John Dwell, Rev. John Coylar (the Church's only Caucasian minister), Rev. John Allen, Rev. James Dennis (who later founded the North Oakland Baptist Church), Rev. Francis Walker, Rev. Samuel Hawkins, Rev. Paul Hubbard, Rev. Alvin Dones and Rev. Dr. Gillette James, the current pastor.

For more than a century, Beth Eden has been a West Oakland landmark of faith, activity and commitment to building a stronger community. These activities include building senior housing, holding interfaith Thanksgiving services with local churches, establishing a Missionary Society, creating SHARE, a discount food program, and helping to create the

Black Adoption Placement and Research Center.

Beth Eden Baptist Church is truly a source of civic pride and a valuable resource for the community. I proudly join the church's members, friends and neighbors in saluting and honoring the history and spirit of this great church.

HONORING WILLIAM C. "BILL" COLEMAN IN RECEIVING THE J. ROBERT LADD COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD AND THE 2000 SERVICE TO MANKIND AWARD

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2000

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize William C. Coleman in receiving the J. Robert Ladd Community Service Award and the Service to Mankind Award from the Lebanon Valley, Sertoma Club.

Bill has made an incredible difference in the community of Lebanon, Pennsylvania. He has been a regular volunteer at the Lebanon Rescue Mission since 1947. He has served on the board of directors, taught Sunday School and has presided as the executive director of the Rescue Mission. Bill has dedicated his life to helping those less fortunate. His generosity, kindness and love has earned him the respect of his community, family and friends.

Bill's relationship with the Lebanon Rescue Mission began when, at the tender age of 19, he felt something was missing in his life. During this time period he was diagnosed with a life-threatening illness. Looking for guidance, he felt compelled to visit the Mission. Bill went there with his mother and they met with Reverend Miller. Reverend Miller talked with Bill and read from the Bible. That night, Bill's life changed. He gave up drinking, gambling, smoking and, as Bill puts it, his vocabulary lost a lot of unnecessary words. Later, when the doctor who had previously diagnosed Bill with the life-threatening illness examined him again, he found Bill to be a perfect picture of health.

Bill started his career at a young age as a stock clerk at Pomeroy's, and moved onto Hershey's Chocolate and the Lebanon Paper Box Company. Bill continued to work hard and eventually landed a job at Winston Prints. He worked his way up through the ranks, eventually becoming supervisor, and later the number three man in the company. While Bill worked at Winston Prints his relationship with the Lebanon Rescue Mission also flourished. He was a dedicated and valued volunteer, spending many hours helping those in dire need. He became a Sunday School teacher, superintendent and secretary to the board of directors. In 1984, after 14 years with Winston Prints, Bill resigned to become the full-time executive director of the Lebanon Rescue Mission.

Bill has been instrumental in many changes that have taken place at the mission since 1984. The first significant change occurred in 1985 when plans were announced to build The Agape Family Shelter for homeless

women and children. It was a huge undertaking that included raising nearly \$400,000 to be used in refurbishing the 115-year-old Dehuff Mansion, making it livable for up to eighteen women and children. The shelter continues to provide a friendly, socialable and safe place for those who find themselves not only homeless, but with a feeling of hopelessness. The Agape Family Shelter provides women with love, attention, and care they drastically require. The shelter also promotes a special program which teaches battered women how to set goals and implement them into their daily lives.

Bill has also helped implement a program to help men who battle with problems with drugs and alcohol. In addition, Bill hosted a popular hour-long radio broadcast every Sunday morning for those who were seeking spiritual up-lifting. He served as the Chaplain for the Lebanon County Fire Police and has been an outspoken advocate for the people of Lebanon County.

Mr. Speaker, again I want to congratulate Bill Coleman in receiving the J. Robert Ladd Community Service Award and the Service to Mankind Award. Through his consistent and unselfish efforts, the community of Lebanon is a richer place for all those who reside there. Thank you Bill for your service to the men, women and children of Lebanon.

CELEBRATING MYRTLE LILLIAN WALDRUP SPRINKLE

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2000

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commend and celebrate the life and 100th birthday of one of Western North Carolina's most beloved citizens. I had the great opportunity to attend the birthday celebration of Myrtle Lillian Waldrup Sprinkle in Marion, McDowell County. While there I witnessed a gentle, gracious lady full of life, vigor and still displays an amazingly agile mind.

Mrs. Sprinkle was born on April 4, 1900 in Madison County North Carolina. She moved to McDowell County in 1945 with her husband as he was named to be the pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church. For all of Mrs. Sprinkle's life two things have mattered most. She has an undying devotion to her church and her family. She has been a member of Zion Hill Baptist Church for over 55 years and taught Sunday school for many years. Her granddaughter, Wanda Childers, described Mrs. Sprinkle's faith as "unwavering."

Mrs. Sprinkle has been a pillar of strength in her family. She is, in essence, a quiet woman, full of humility. She has always been there for her community and her family. Through her life she has learned that simple things matter, like making a quilt for every one of her 45 grandchildren. She loves nothing more than cooking, canning vegetables, and crocheting. Her family includes five pastors who have all acquired her undying faith. Mrs. Sprinkle has many relatives who can share her love, affection, and warmth. Her 14 children are Lula Randall (deceased), Ida Lee Sprinkle (deceased), Julian Sprinkle (deceased), John